

SCENES FROM LIFE'S STAGE, TEN ORIGINAL STORIES.

WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH BY SIR GILBERT E. CAMPBELL, BART., Author of "Detective Stories From Real Life," "The Avenging Hand," "The Mystery of Mandeville Square," Etc.

No. 1. A BLACK PIN.

Mr. and Mrs. Bywater had been married for nearly seven years, and it cannot be said that their wedded life had been a particularly happy one. Not that they ever came to open dissension or vulgar quarrels, but they seemed to have agreed to differ on almost every point upon which it was possible for man and wife to take opposing sides.

The fact was that the marriage was a patched-up affair, in which the element of love was conspicuous by its absence. Mr. Bywater had a remote chance of succeeding to a baronetcy, and there was a chance that his wife might be left the heiress of a rich bachelor uncle, with whom she was reported to have an especial favorite.

Neither of these possible contingencies came to pass. Mr. Bywater's uncle, the baronet, took it into his head to marry, and the birth of an heir knocked Mr. Bywater's hopes on the head, while Mrs. Bywater's uncle died, leaving the whole of his large property to the founders of a new religion, who had managed to get hold of the old gentleman during the last year of his life.

Neither Mr. nor Mrs. Bywater were deficient either in money or connection, but these two falling appearances to have comforted them, and embittered them terribly toward each other. Mr. Bywater was a medical man, in good practice, therefore he took up with the doctrine of homeopathy. Mrs. Bywater was fond of theaters, balls and evening amusements of all kinds, and therefore her husband suddenly betrayed a strong predilection for spending his evenings at home, insisting, of course, that his wife

should hear him company, and so on to the end of the chapter.

One day, as they were seated together at the breakfast table, the morning after the agreement of a more serious nature than usual, Mrs. Bywater suddenly broke the silence which had reigned from the commencement of the meal.

"Mr. Bywater," said she, "will you listen to me for a few minutes?"

Mr. Bywater gave a sudden start, as if he thought a letter had been put in his pocket, and said: "What is it, my dear?"

"I have just had a letter from your uncle, the baronet, and he has asked me to go to the country with him for a few days. He says he has a very nice place, and he would like me to take you with me."

"What is the matter with you, are you ill?"

"No, I am perfectly well, but I have a very strong feeling that I should like to go. I have not seen my uncle for years, and I should like to see him now."

"It is nothing," answered he, heavily, "only a sharp tinge of that confounded neuralgia. What do you want to say?"

"I want to say that we are a pair of fools to go on spending all our lives in jangling," said she, "when by a little mutual yielding we might jog along well enough."

"I do not know what you are right, Mattie; as my wife, I am willing to do my best, but I have been so long in the habit of saving my things to each other, that I am afraid we shall find it somewhat difficult to drop it."

"His voice quivered a good deal as he spoke, but Mrs. Bywater ascribed this to the emotion her sudden proposal had caused him.

"There's a dear," said she, rising from her chair, and kissing him on the forehead, "and now let me ask you if you will be in to lunch?"

"No," replied Mr. Bywater, "why?"

"Because Jenny is coming. I know you dislike her, and to tell the truth, I had asked her here to aggravate you," answered Mrs. Bywater, "but now that we have come to an understanding she shall not be here. I have been so long in the habit of saving my things to each other, that I am afraid we shall find it somewhat difficult to drop it."

"No, I shall be out, thank goodness," replied her husband. "And now be quiet for a moment as I wish to see if Ultra Montanos are going up."

"What are they, balloons?" asked Mrs. Bywater, knowing that she was not to be troubled.

"Balloons? No," answered her husband, "shares in a gold mine, of which I am half inclined to purchase a few."

"After having received the paper for some time with considerable attention, Mr. Bywater laid it down, and telling his wife he would be back about 4, he left the house, as was his usual custom.

When Jenny arrived, her sister flew toward her, and at once informed her of the new arrangement between herself and her husband. "And do you know, my dear, said she, 'I am sure that we shall get on all right now, for all that snapping and snarling was wearing out my life completely. But, do you know, I am half afraid that Jenny is not well, for he looked ghastly this morning, and at first I thought that he had seen something unpleasant in the paper, but it wasn't so, for he was only looking to see if 'Ultra Montanos' repeated Miss Polton."

"Yes, shares in a gold mine," replied her sister, triumphantly. "Why, I thought you had a little in stocks and shares, but there, don't worry me about the horrid things. You can take the paper if you like; but come upstairs and see my lovely bonnet, the sweetest thing you ever saw, and cost a mere nothing."

The mere nothing was six guineas, and was the cause of the dispute between the husband and wife the night and day before. Miss Polton did double a little in stocks and shares, and as she had never heard of a gold mine named the "Ultra Montanos," she took the newspaper with her when she terminated her visit to see what information she would gain respecting it.

Meanwhile Mr. Bywater (he hated the

WELLS ARE FALLING OFF.

Nobletstown Producers Seem to Lack Staying Qualities—Five No. 2 Drilling in the Inferior Sand, and Looks Like a Future Another Well on the McCarty.

The reports from the McDonald field yesterday were rather cheering for the bulls. The production dropped off from 2,000 to 23,000 barrels, notwithstanding that one 20-barrel an hour well was added to the list of big ones. It is Isman & Co.'s No. 1 on the Short & Wade lot and was reported in THE DISPATCH yesterday.

Thirty barrels an hour was its estimated capacity, but deeper drilling did not improve, and like the other Nobletstown fifth sanders, it fell off gradually to 20 barrels an hour. It seems to have as much oil as any of the others, but it lacks the gas to bring out the petroleum. They intend to shoot it to-day.

At all of the Nobletstown fifth sanders were off yesterday morning. J. M. Guffey, Russell & McMillan's No. 2, Wetland's No. 1 and No. 2, the No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, No. 4, No. 5, No. 6, No. 7, No. 8, No. 9, No. 10, No. 11, No. 12, No. 13, No. 14, No. 15, No. 16, No. 17, No. 18, No. 19, No. 20, No. 21, No. 22, No. 23, No. 24, No. 25, No. 26, No. 27, No. 28, No. 29, No. 30, No. 31, No. 32, No. 33, No. 34, No. 35, No. 36, No. 37, No. 38, No. 39, No. 40, No. 41, No. 42, No. 43, No. 44, No. 45, No. 46, No. 47, No. 48, No. 49, No. 50, No. 51, No. 52, No. 53, No. 54, No. 55, No. 56, No. 57, No. 58, No. 59, No. 60, No. 61, No. 62, No. 63, No. 64, No. 65, No. 66, No. 67, No. 68, No. 69, No. 70, No. 71, No. 72, No. 73, No. 74, No. 75, No. 76, No. 77, No. 78, No. 79, No. 80, No. 81, No. 82, No. 83, No. 84, No. 85, No. 86, No. 87, No. 88, No. 89, No. 90, No. 91, No. 92, No. 93, No. 94, No. 95, No. 96, No. 97, No. 98, No. 99, No. 100.

The only well scheduled to get the fifth sand yesterday was New York Oil Company No. 2 on the Erie farm, northwest of Nobletstown, which was drilled to 100 feet and yesterday evening to three bits in a very inferior sand, and the chances are it will be a dry hole or at most, very small. The New York Oil Company's No. 1 on the Ulrich is still doing 90 barrels a day was the case of drilling here, but the gas in this locality. Dry holes have now been drilled all around the original well except one, west and south-west of the Erie farm, Fitzgibbons & Co. recently finished up a 200-barrel well on the Walker farm, north and west of the Schlegel, Lenz & Co. got a dry hole on the same farm.

The Erie Oil Company's No. 1 on the A. Bell farm is due to reach the fifth sand this morning. It is located east of the Erie farm, but between the Erie and the Bell well is a dry hole on the Erie which was drilled by Schlegel, Lenz & Co.'s No. 2, on the Henry Shaffer farm, in the western part of the McCarty farm, at the corner of the Erie and Erie farms. They were 21 feet in an excellent sand last night. It is located 1,500 feet west of the Erie, and is a very good well, never made over 30 barrels a day and did not make a barrel until it was shot. Bailey & Boland's No. 1 on the school house lot is down 1,400 feet. The boiler exploded yesterday, but fortunately no one was hurt.

Brown & Co.'s well, located just below the Erie farm, was on top of the garden and last night. Mellon & Wilson's No. 2 on the McCarty farm near Millway was drilled yesterday and showing for a good well at that formation. It is located west of their No. 1 on this farm, which for months produced 90 barrels a day.

The following estimates were submitted by the gaugers of the southwestern Pennsylvania Pipe Line Company. The production of the field was 28,000, 1,000 less than the day before. The hourly gauges were: No. 1, 1,000; No. 2, 1,000; No. 3, 1,000; No. 4, 1,000; No. 5, 1,000; No. 6, 1,000; No. 7, 1,000; No. 8, 1,000; No. 9, 1,000; No. 10, 1,000; No. 11, 1,000; No. 12, 1,000; No. 13, 1,000; No. 14, 1,000; No. 15, 1,000; No. 16, 1,000; No. 17, 1,000; No. 18, 1,000; No. 19, 1,000; No. 20, 1,000; No. 21, 1,000; No. 22, 1,000; No. 23, 1,000; No. 24, 1,000; No. 25, 1,000; No. 26, 1,000; No. 27, 1,000; No. 28, 1,000; No. 29, 1,000; No. 30, 1,000; No. 31, 1,000; No. 32, 1,000; No. 33, 1,000; No. 34, 1,000; No. 35, 1,000; No. 36, 1,000; No. 37, 1,000; No. 38, 1,000; No. 39, 1,000; No. 40, 1,000; No. 41, 1,000; No. 42, 1,000; No. 43, 1,000; No. 44, 1,000; No. 45, 1,000; No. 46, 1,000; No. 47, 1,000; No. 48, 1,000; No. 49, 1,000; No. 50, 1,000; No. 51, 1,000; No. 52, 1,000; No. 53, 1,000; No. 54, 1,000; No. 55, 1,000; No. 56, 1,000; No. 57, 1,000; No. 58, 1,000; No. 59, 1,000; No. 60, 1,000; No. 61, 1,000; No. 62, 1,000; No. 63, 1,000; No. 64, 1,000; No. 65, 1,000; No. 66, 1,000; No. 67, 1,000; No. 68, 1,000; No. 69, 1,000; No. 70, 1,000; No. 71, 1,000; No. 72, 1,000; No. 73, 1,000; No. 74, 1,000; No. 75, 1,000; No. 76, 1,000; No. 77, 1,000; No. 78, 1,000; No. 79, 1,000; No. 80, 1,000; No. 81, 1,000; No. 82, 1,000; No. 83, 1,000; No. 84, 1,000; No. 85, 1,000; No. 86, 1,000; No. 87, 1,000; No. 88, 1,000; No. 89, 1,000; No. 90, 1,000; No. 91, 1,000; No. 92, 1,000; No. 93, 1,000; No. 94, 1,000; No. 95, 1,000; No. 96, 1,000; No. 97, 1,000; No. 98, 1,000; No. 99, 1,000; No. 100, 1,000.

As on the previous day, the finish was better than the beginning. Trading aggregated about 25,000 barrels. The opening was 85c; highest, 86c; lowest, 84c. Then 7,000 barrels; daily average shipments, 7,000 barrels; total shipments, 7,000 barrels. Oil, April 8.—National Transit Certificates closed at 85c; highest, 86c; lowest, 84c. Lima oil, no sales; total sales, 7,000 barrels.

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